

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, before "BACKGROUND OF INVENTION" please add the following paragraph and heading:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims benefit of priority of Application Serial No. 10/090,683, filed March 4, 2002.

On page 3 in the "SUMMARY OF INVENTION", please amend paragraph [0010] as follows:

[0010] This invention relates generally to a process and apparatus for forming a component including thermoplastic material, and the component produced thereby. More specifically, the process and apparatus utilize an extrusion and zone molding process in which a polymeric material is extruded, shaped and cooled to form a primary extrusion ~~having a shaped length of uniform cross section~~, zone heating is then applied to only a portion of the primary extrusion creating a molten zone in that portion, the molten zone is aligned with a section mold to mold only that portion of the primary extrusion. The portion section molded cools quickly forming a section molded portion. The process forms components in a reduced amount of time. The process can be quickly adapted to design changes and requires little in the way of equipment maintenance. Although an exemplary polymeric components are described herein, a variety of other components may be produced utilizing the apparatus and method described herein by varying the shape of either the primary extrusion component or the section molded component, or both.